



CECIL COUNTY 2002 AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Cecil County is located at the head of the Chesapeake Bay between Harford County to the west and Kent County to the south. It lies in two geologic regions: the Atlantic Coastal Plain covers the southeastern portion of the county, and the Piedmont Plateau, the northwest area. Topography varies from flat and gently rolling in Coastal Plain area to rolling in the Piedmont area, with some rocky bluffs along the Susquehanna River.

In 2000, Cecil County had 85,951 residents, up 20.5% from 1990. About 11,900 live in the county seat of Elkton, and the remainder are scattered throughout the county in small towns and rural developments and on individual home sites.

Cecil County comprises 222,824 acres. About 37.7%— 84,000 acres — is farmland. Much of the agricultural land is devoted to cash grain and dairy farms. Principal crops are corn, soybeans and wheat. Secondary crops include hay, barley, tree fruits, vegetables and berries. The county is well adapted for raising horses and has several large thoroughbred farms and many smaller farms producing horses for racing and pleasure.

Cecil County has been called "Little Maryland" because its makeup is somewhat representative of most of the natural resources found throughout the State.

CECIL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

<i>Crop</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Acreage Harvested</i>	<i>Average Yield</i>	<i>Total Production</i>
Corn for Grain	2000	Bu.	18,400	135.7	2,496,000
	2001		18,100	136.5	2,471,000
	2002		17,500	80.0	1,400,000
Corn for Silage	2000	Tons.	1,600	23.0	36,800
	2001		1,700	18.8	32,000
	2002		2,500	12.0	30,000
Soybeans	2000	Bu.	19,800	40.5	802,000
	2001		17,700	33.0	584,000
	2002		17,500	25.5	446,300
Wheat	2000	Bu.	7,600	60.1	456,700
	2001		6,700	63.0	422,000
	2002		7,500	69.2	519,000
Hay	2000	Tons.	9,000	2.6	23,000
	2001		9,000	2.5	22,500
	2002		9,400	2.4	22,100
Barley	2000	Bu.	2,400	83.5	200,400
	2001		2,600	77.8	202,200
	2002		1,600	83.1	133,000

<i>Crop Production</i>				<i>Livestock Inventories</i>	
<i>Rank among MD. Counties, 2002</i>				<i>Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 ¹</i>	
Corn	9	Oats	3	Cattle	6
Wheat	8	Barley	9	Hogs	7
Hay	7	Soybeans	11	Sheep	5
				Milk Cows	7 ⁵

CECIL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

<i>Farm Number & Size</i> ¹		1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms		501	455	464
Average Size	(acres)	173	176	185
Land in Farms	(acres)	86,861	80,241	85,702
<i>Livestock (Number on Farms)</i> ¹				
Cattle Inventory		13,511	11,253	10,466
Hog Inventory		4,211	2,644	4,198
Sheep Inventory		477	1,729	1,469
<i>Value of Sales</i> ¹			<i>(\$1,000)</i>	
All Products		40,411	35,504	59,052
Crops		9,735	13,517	22,889
Livestock, Poultry, and Poultry Products		30,675	21,987	36,163
Average Number of Milk Cows		2000	2001	2002
		3,000	3,000	3,000
Milk Production - 1,000 lbs		51,000	48,000	49,000
<i>Equine, 2002</i>				
<i>Equine Inventory</i>	<i>Value of Equine Inventory</i>	<i>Number of Equine Places</i>		
	<i>\$1,000 dollars</i>			
6,580	68,345	900		
Cash Rents				
		2000	2001	2002
Cropland	<i>dollars per acre</i>	53.78	60.58	68.28

¹ Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.

² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

³ Unranked - Data not published.

⁴ Revised.

⁵ 2002.

* Acreage too small to publish.